

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 11, and 12 have been rejected for lacking adequate written description. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 8-12 have been rejected as anticipated by Dowe, US 4,659,881. Claims 4 and 7 have been rejected as unpatentable over Dowe in view of Chuang, US 6,166,662. Claim 3 has been allowed.

The Office Action states that the following limitation in claim 1 lacks adequate description: the first membrane (30) applying a first return force to the depressible member (20) such that the first return force is reducing as the depressible member (20) is moving in the first direction (22) simultaneously as the second membrane (40) is applying a second return force that is also reducing as the depressible member (20) is moving in the first direction (22). Fig. 4 and the Specification, page 9-11, lines 3-24, 1-23, and 1-20, and specifically page 10, lines 1-9, describe this limitation.

Page 10, lines 1-3: "The first membrane 30 then begins to apply a decreasing amount of return force indicated by the portion 91a of the curve 91". Page 10, lines 7-9: "The second membrane 40 then begins to apply a decreasing amount of return force to the depressible member 20". Attached Fig. 4 has been illustrated to further point out the limitation for the Examiner. This limitation is adequately and clearly set out in the Specification and Drawings.

Additionally, regarding the anticipation rejection of claim 1, in the multidome multistage switch assembly of Dowe,

when the push button is moved in the direction (X), at no time do both the outer dome (7) and the inner dome (9) both reduce the return force simultaneously (See Fig. 5). Claim 1, as well as claims 2 and 4-10 which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action states that the following limitation in claim 11 lacks written description: the first membrane (30) applying a first return force to the depressible member (20) such that the first return force is reducing as the depressible member (20) is moving in the first direction (22) simultaneously as the second membrane (40) is applying a second return force that is also reducing as the depressible member (20) is moving in the first direction (22). Fig. 4 and the Specification, page 9-11, lines 3-24, 1-23, and 1-20, and specifically page 10, lines 1-9, describes this limitation.

Page 10, lines 1-3: "The first membrane 30 then begins to apply a decreasing amount of return force indicated by the portion 91a of the curve 91". Page 10, lines 7-9: "The second membrane 40 then begins to apply a decreasing amount of return force to the depressible member 20". As stated above, attached Fig. 4 has been illustrated to further point out the limitation for the Examiner. This limitation is adequately and clearly set out in the Specification and Drawings.

Additionally, regarding the anticipation rejection of claim 11, in the multidome multistage switch assembly of Dowe, when the push button is moved in the direction (X), at no time do both the outer dome (7) and the inner dome (9) both reduce the return force simultaneously (See Fig. 5). Claim 11, as

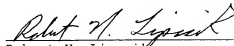
Serial No. 09/818,127

well as claim 12 which depends from claim 11, are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

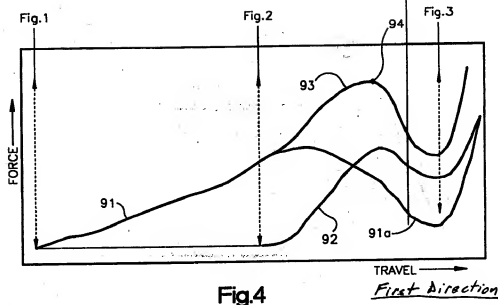
Respectfully submitted,


Robert N. Lipsick
Reg. No. 44,460

TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL,
TUMMINO & SZABO L.L.P.
1111 Leader Building
526 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1400
Phone: (216) 621-2234
Fax: (216) 621-4072



*Specification
Page 10, Lines 1-9*



RECEIVED
APR 17 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800